

Transition for students with Aspergers Disorder (ASD)

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Asperger's Disorder vs HFA

- **CORE FEATURES**

- **Language development**
- **Cognitive functioning**
- **Social Interaction**
- **Communication**

High Functioning Autism

- Typically evidence of language delay
- Average through to gifted
- Restricted & repetitive interests & behaviour
- ALL IMPAIRED

Asperger's Disorder

- NO delay in language
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- Average through to gifted
- Individual variables in all areas
- ALL IMPAIRED

The Autism Spectrum

Profound degree of
impairment

Mild degree of
impairment

Communication impairment

Impaired social relating

Repetitive behaviours and restricted interests

Transition

- **E**arly Identification
- **A**dult learning environment
- **S**ocial interaction
- **Y**ourself

Early Identification

What & Why

- **Planning, organising & setting up support & services**
- time to meet and get to know student and vice versa
- present alternatives BUT be aware of too many options
- time for decision making
- Introduction to new environment; rules and regulations
- reduces anxiety

Adult Learning Environment

What & Why

- **New environment, routines, responsibilities, people and practices**
- use visual aids wherever possible: maps, timetables & practice
- write instructions and reminders in point form and using plain English
- Getting to know new terms & types of assessments eg. groupwork
- give the student a place to come if there is ANY problem; single point of contact **AND** back up plan!

Social Interaction

- **Social communication and behaviour**

What & Why

Discuss with the student

- initiating and sustaining conversations
- appropriate social behaviour; eg adult relationships with teachers
- bullying/harassment

You (and your student)

What & Why

- **Every person with ASD and HFA is different**
- ensuring the student is aware of the condition, how it affects them and those around them
- ensuring you know your student and the likely behavioural triggers and indicators of increasing anxiety
- ensuring teachers know what they need to know about the student

Resources

- TAFE Moodle:
<http://equity.moodle.com.au/>
- Towards Success in Tertiary Study Asperger's Syndrome
[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/
studentequity/success/aspergers.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/studentequity/success/aspergers.html)